

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The Agreement will further open Chile's markets for U.S. manufactured goods, agricultural products, services, and investors. It will increase competition and consumer choice. The FTA will enhance prosperity in the United States and Chile, serve the interest of expanding U.S. commerce, and advance our overall national interest.

The U.S.-Chile FTA is the first United States free trade agreement with a South American country. We hope the FTA will add momentum to Chile's continued implementation of the free market economic policies that have made Chile a model for its Latin American neighbors. This Agreement will also encourage other countries in the Western Hemisphere to follow Chile's path, furthering our efforts to establish a Free Trade Area of the Americas.

My Administration is strongly committed to securing a level playing field for America's workers, farmers, and businesses. The Congress helped advance that policy by passing Trade Promotion Authority in the Trade Act of 2002 (the "Trade Act"). The Congress can help us take another important step by approving this Agreement and the implementing legislation. United States workers and businesses are currently at a competitive disadvantage in the Chilean market. Chile is an associate member in Mercosur and has FTAs with many other countries, including Canada, Mexico, and the 15 members of the European Union. Securing an FTA with Chile will ensure that U.S. workers and businesses will receive treatment in the Chilean market that is as good as or better than their competitors.

In negotiating this FTA, my Administration was guided by the negotiating objectives set out in the Trade Act. More than 85 percent of trade in consumer and industrial goods between the United States and Chile will be free of duties immediately upon implementation, and most remaining tariffs on U.S. exports to Chile will be eliminated within 4 years after that. More than three-quarters of U.S. farm goods will enter Chile duty free within 4 years and all duties on such goods will be phased out over 12 years. At the same time, the Agreement includes measures to ensure that U.S. firms and farmers have an opportunity to adjust to imports from Chile.

This Agreement opens opportunities for our services businesses, which now account for nearly 65 percent of our gross domestic product and more than 80 percent of employment in the United States. Chile will grant substantial market access to U.S. firms across nearly the entire spectrum of services, including banking, insurance, securities and related financial services, express delivery services, professional services, and telecommunications.

This Agreement provides for state-of-the-art intellectual property protection and recognizes the importance of trade in the digital age by including significant commitments on trade in digital products. In addition, it ensures that electronic commerce will stay free of duties and discriminatory rules.

United States citizens and businesses that invest in Chile will have significant increased protections. This Agreement promotes the rule of law and enhances transparency and openness in order to foster a more secure environment for trade and investment. Furthermore, Chile will provide U.S. investors with important substantive protections that Chilean investors already enjoy in the United States.

The United States and Chile have also agreed to cooperate on environment and labor issues and to establish mechanisms to support those efforts. A number of important cooperative projects that will promote environmental protection are identified for future work. The FTA encourages the adoption of high labor and environmental standards, obligates each country to enforce its own labor and environmental laws, and makes clear that domestic labor and environmental protections may not be reduced in order to encourage trade or investment. The Agreement also preserves our right to pursue other legitimate domestic objectives, including the protection of health and safety, consumer interests, and national security.

Trade and openness contribute to development, the rule of law, economic growth, and international cooperation. Chile is a close partner of the United States, and this Agreement will strengthen those ties.

With the approval of this Agreement and passage of the implementing legislation by the Congress, we will advance U.S. economic and political interests, while encouraging others to work with us to expand free trade around the world.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 15, 2003.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURNS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

BUSH ADMINISTRATION UNDERMINES ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, from clean air and water to wetlands and global warming, this is an administration that is determined to ignore the most pressing environmental problems, dismiss good science that draws attention to these problems and undermine

our most effective environmental laws that address those problems.

It is one thing for the Bush administration to break its promises on environmental issues such as regulating carbon dioxide, but every administration has a responsibility to provide Congress and the American people with sound science that is untainted by politics.

Unfortunately, it is becoming all too common for the Bush administration to compromise the independence and credibility of our government agencies by shelving and suppressing sound science if it does not fit their political agenda.

Most recently, this trend is evident in EPA's actions surrounding the administration's "Clear Skies" proposal which would weaken the Clean Air Act. Earlier this month the EPA intentionally hid data showing that a competing Senate clean air bill would provide far greater long-term health benefits at only a slightly higher cost. While EPA disclosed the cost associated with the Senate bill, it failed to disclose that the proposal would result in 17,800 fewer premature deaths annually than the administration's proposal.

This comes on the heels of last month's release of EPA's State of the Environment Report. The report, commissioned in 2001 by Administrator Whitman, was intended to provide the first comprehensive review of what is known about the various environmental problems, from air pollution to the state of drinking water supplies, where gaps in understanding exist and how we might fill them.

The White House directed a major rewrite of an assessment of climate change, removing references to health and environmental risks posed by rising global temperatures.

According to an EPA memo, the changes demanded by the White House were so extensive that the climate section no longer accurately represents scientific consensus on climate change and characterized the revised draft as an embarrassment to the EPA. If the changes are accepted, the staff memo said, the agency will take severe criticism from the science and environmental communities for poorly representing the science of climate change.

According to the EPA papers, the White House deleted from a summary under the heading of Global Issues the sentence, "Climate changes has global consequences for human health and the environment." A number of scientific reports have also raised those concerns.

The draft also removed the reference and a graphic to a 1999 study showing global temperatures had risen sharply in the past decade compared with the previous 1,000 years. Instead, it cites a new study partly sponsored by the American Petroleum Institute that disputed those findings.

The draft eliminated references to many studies, concluding that warming is at least partly caused by rising concentrations of smokestack and tailpipe emissions and could threaten health and ecological systems.

The White House deleted a National Research Council finding that various studies have suggested that recent warmings were unusual and likely due to human activities, although the same 2001 NRC report had been commissioned by the White House and endorsed by President Bush previously.

This is the second time in the past year that the Bush administration has censored information on global warming. Last September, an annual EPA report on air pollution that for 6 years had contained a section on climate was released without one. Administrator Whitman told the New York Times she was perfectly comfortable with the edited version.

However, the seriousness of climate change cannot be understated. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a group of hundreds of scientists established by the United Nations in 1988 to assess global warming, concluded that global warming is real and will have serious consequences.

Their report, released in January, 2001, states that the Earth has warmed in the last century and that the majority of the observed warming is attributable to human activities, including fossil fuel-generated carbon dioxide emissions.

In late 2001, the National Academy of Sciences confirmed those findings.

This just shows that the administration is manipulating the EPA's formerly unbiased science for its political agenda in an effort to mislead the public.

We have spoken on this floor about the way in which the administration has manipulated data with regard to weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, how the administration has put pressure on the intelligence agencies to manipulate their objectively drawn and realized information in order to make it more accurately fit the administration's political agenda; and here we have an example of how the administration is doing the same thing with regard to important scientific considerations on the single most important global issue of our lives, the warming of the Earth's temperature and the ecological consequences, as well as the consequences on the health and safety of people in this country and around the world. It is time for this administration to be honest in its science and in its reporting to the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to go out of order and claim the time allocated to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

PASS TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT FOR 21ST CENTURY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to discuss the importance of passing the reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st century.

Our transportation system has a direct and significant impact on the daily lives of all Americans. While the United States has benefited greatly from having a strong transportation network on which we can move our people and goods, we are approaching a crossroads.

My district in North Texas has experienced an increase in traffic over the last 3 decades. This is the direct result of unprecedented population growth, unprecedented employment growth, and underinvestment of Federal funds to this area. In many ways, this is a silent crisis, rarely recognized by residents until they find themselves in an unbearable commute to work or unable to make necessary connections between home, work and countless other activities that our busy lives demand.

In Texas, our identified transportation needs outstrip available funding three to one. Texas has several specific transportation needs such as seeking opportunities for increased funding, supporting international trade transportation and a more efficient environmental process, and expanding innovative financing techniques. I believe we must make the necessary investment to support our transportation future in Texas or we will sit in traffic and literally watch our transportation infrastructure deteriorate before our eyes to the point that it further impedes growth and economic development.

As a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I am working with the committee's bipartisan leadership and my other committee colleagues on the 6-year, \$375 billion TEA-21 reauthorization proposal to fund highway and transit programs. Under the committee's proposal, Texas would receive an estimated \$20.8 billion in highway funding over 6 years, which is an estimated \$7.59 billion increase for Texas highway funding compared to current funding levels.

Furthermore, this proposal would stimulate job and economic growth throughout our great State, creating

an estimated 93,000 new jobs in Texas over the next 6 years.

I believe Texas needs increased funding for its highway and transit programs. I have requested funding assistance to expedite the planning and construction of specific highways and transit projects to improve the lives of citizens, business owners and those transporting goods through Texas and throughout my congressional district. More funding will equate to better roads, better bridges and better transit facilities, less congestion and improved safety and infrastructure for commercial transportation.

I am committed to working with Federal, State and local officials during the TEA-21 reauthorization this year to address Texas' long-term needs. The House Committee on Transportation and the Infrastructure members and other interested parties will continue to work to produce a bill which adequately provides for our economic security, creates and sustains jobs, enhances safety, and continues to improve mobility for our Nation's citizens, especially those in Texas.

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE DISTORTION OF EVIDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, beginning tonight and for the rest of the evenings until we recess for our summer break, a number of us will be coming to the floor to read letters that have been written by ordinary Americans, letters that were sent to our districts and others in our States, letters and comments that were in response to an online petition by moveon.org which is a grassroots organization with more than 1.4 million members.

Here is the petition which moveon.org has online: "Congress should support an independent commission to investigate the Bush administration's distortion of evidence of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction program."

Over 320,000 people signed this online petition, and many of them wrote comments. In Illinois, 3,621 people wrote comments, and I have copies of those. I am going to read some of them.

All of the people who wrote comments are supporting H.R. 2625 which was introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) to establish an independent commission to investigate intelligence claims that were made to the public by the administration to justify a preemptive war against Iraq.

All of the ones I am going to read tonight were written by either people in the service or service related or veterans of U.S. wars. This is the first I will read.

"My wife is with Freeport's 333rd MP Company. She has been overseas since